

to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HANNAH AND FRIENDS

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representative JOLLY to recognize a wonderful organization in my district dedicated to helping children and adults with special needs, Hannah's House.

Many football fans know the name Charlie Weis. He has coached at the University of Notre Dame, New England Patriots, and the New York Jets.

What many of you don't know is he and his wife, Maura, are passionate about helping people off the field.

In 2003, Charlie and Maura founded Hannah and Friends for their daughter Hannah, who has global developmental delays. They wanted to find a way to inspire a special group of people with abilities different from the athletes that he coached. Hannah and Friends provides grants to low- and middle-income families who have children with disabilities.

Hannah and Friends is helping individuals with special needs every day to realize their potential and plan for their future and to achieve their own personal best.

THE GREAT LAKES

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes represents the largest source of freshwater on this planet. They support more than 1.5 million jobs. They provide those who live near them with countless opportunities for outdoor enjoyment and recreation.

My community of western New York considers its proximity to Lake Erie as one of its greatest assets. We must strive to guard the Great Lakes against imminent and future threats, and this week the House did just that.

Today we introduce the Guarding the Great Lakes Act, which will continue to help protect the Great Lakes from Asian carp and other invasive species. The act will also take necessary steps to focus on permanent solutions by beginning work on water quality and flood mitigation projects.

Yesterday the House passed the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act, providing \$300 million in Federal funding annually to support projects related to the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes for each of the next 5 years. These are two excellent steps forward as we continue to protect these great bodies of water.

CONGRATULATIONS, KARON KARAMI

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am grateful to express my appreciation for Karon Karami, the South Carolina Second Congressional District's scheduler and office manager.

After interning for several months in the Washington office, Karon joined the Wilson team in December 2012. Although a native of Great Falls, Virginia, and a graduate of the University of Virginia, Karon has grown to adopt South Carolina as her second home.

The scheduling position is most challenging, but Karon has excelled. Her ability to connect with constituents, coordinate with my wife, Roxanne, and her eagerness to assist them has made a difference for the citizens of South Carolina.

Beginning in January, Karon will join New Hampshire's First Congressional District Congressman-elect Frank Guinta's office. I know her parents, Mo and Fatemah Karami, are proud of her accomplishments. I wish Karon best wishes and look forward to seeing her future successes.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and the President should take actions to never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. The President's pardoning of Guantanamo terrorists endangers American families.

"ORION"—INNOVATE, EXPLORE, DISCOVER

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable achievement of the *Orion* spacecraft's first test flight. The project represents the next frontier for NASA's deep space exploration program.

Last Friday, December 5, *Orion* lifted off from Cape Canaveral, and by all accounts, it was a flawless mission. This test flight sent *Orion* 3,604 miles above Earth, traveling at over 20,000 miles per hour.

Orion and the Space Launch System are national priorities aimed at taking our astronauts to Mars and beyond. This exploration will inspire our Nation and capture the hearts and minds of young Americans.

More importantly, I am proud to say Colorado played an enormous role in making *Orion* a reality. Lockheed Martin and United Launch Alliance facilities played a leading role in this mission.

Other Colorado contractors that played an important role include Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Advanced Solutions Inc., Ball Aerospace, Deep Space Systems, Denver Research Institute, Erickson Metals of Colorado, ISYS Technologies, Red Canyon Engineering, SEAKR Engineering, St. Vrain Manufacturing Syzygx, Syzygx, and TTJ&B Inc.

Orion supports thousands of jobs all around the country and is an engine for

innovation and space exploration in our State and the Nation. This is something that we all can be proud of as a Nation, and we look forward to further space exploration.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN MIKE MCINTYRE

(Mr. HUDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and colleague from North Carolina, Congressman MIKE MCINTYRE. MIKE and I are blessed to represent the southeastern region of North Carolina and some of the most hardworking, genuine, and thoughtful people you will ever meet.

MIKE has his priorities in order. He has dedicated his life to God, his family, and serving his constituents, and he has done so with unparalleled honor and integrity.

In Congress, he has been a voice for common sense, and he has never been afraid to reach across the aisle to get things done for our local communities. During his years of service on the House Agriculture and the House Armed Services Committees, MIKE has, time and again, stood up for issues folks care about back home in North Carolina.

I am honored that I inherited Robeson County from MIKE, a place my family has called home for generations, and I am thrilled to call MIKE and his amazing wife, Dee, my constituents.

I can tell you firsthand that MIKE is respected across southeastern North Carolina because he has a sincere passion for the people he represents and serves.

I thank MIKE MCINTYRE for his leadership to North Carolina over the years. It has been a privilege to get to know MIKE, to call him a friend, and to work with him to make life better for the folks of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the House will join me in wishing MIKE and Dee well in their future endeavors. We are going to miss him around here.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to renew the call for Congress to act on comprehensive immigration reform. The job of Congress is to legislate, and immigration reform needs a legislative solution. It is, therefore, disappointing that we will be finishing this Congress in a few days without the House having passed or even voted on comprehensive immigration reform. But I hope that starting immediately in the new Congress, we can work together to pass comprehensive, commonsense, and compassionate legislation that will provide opportunities to those who